THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Candidates applying for posts under the Central Government have to pay a nominal fee along with their application forms. However, candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not required to pay any fees for admission to any recruitment examination/ selection. In addition, physically handicapped persons are exempted from the payment of application and examination fee prescribed in respect of competitive examinations held by the Staff Selection Commission and Union Public Service Commission for recruitment to various Group C and B (Non-gazetted) posts.

(b) The number of candidates to be called for interview is dependent upon a number of factors including the number of candidates applying for the post, the number of persons qualifying the written examination, where necessary, etc.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Committee of businessmen to advise on programme implementation

2761. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee of businessmen has been set up to advise on programme implementation and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) who are the members of this committee and what is their term in office; and

(c) what remuneration, perquisites and/ or facilities the members of the Committee would be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Government have constituted an advisory Council on Project Implementation for advising the Ministry of Programme Implementation on important project implementation systems and organisational development. The members of the Council are professional managers, academicians and enterpreneurs of proven track record.

(b) Names of the Chairman and the Members of the Council are listed below:

(1) Shri Ratan N. Tata, Chairman Tata Industries Ltd., Bombay.	Chairman
(2) Shri S.P. Acharyaa, formerly Chairmn, Shaw Wallance & Co., Calcutta/President, ASSOCHAM.	Member
(3) Shri A.K. Khosla Chairman, G.E.C. Group of Companies Nehru Place, New Delhi.	Member
(4) Shri Dhruv Sawhney, President Triveni Engineering Works Ltd., Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi	Member
(5) Dr. Parvinder Singh Managing Director, Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. New Delhi	Member
(6) Dr. M.B. Athreya, Management Adviser Athreya. Management Systems New Delhi	Member

No term has been specified for the Advisory Council.

(c) No remunreation, perquisites and/ or facilities have been provided to the Chairman and Members of the Advisory Council

Irregular Bank Loans

2762. *SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:* Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irregular bank loans are amounting to Rs 5000 cro-

res, if so, what is the actual amount thereof, and

(b) what steps are being taken to bring down this figure and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The total overdues (due but not realised for various reasons) of 28 public sector banks for the year ending December, 1986 amounted to Rs. 7790.61 crores constituting 14.07 per cent to total outstandings.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has advised the bank managements to closely monitor the advances portfolio and have a viable recovery system. A system of Health Code for various accounts has been introduced whereby each account will be graded according to its health. Reserve Bank of India has also advised the banks to review all larger accounts atleast once a year.

Encouragement to process food industry

2763. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether itis a fact that *Ad valorem* Excise duty was notapplicable to the cost of O.T.S. tin containers under notification No. 257/85-CE of 30th December, 1985;

(b) whether the excise duty is proposed to be levied on the cost of tin containers plus the content;

(c) what is the benefit of Modvat and the increase incidence of excise due to cost of packging and will the net effect of duty be more or less; and

(d) whether Government propose to reduce the excise duty to help the industry and thus the farmers as per the stated objective in the Budget Speech Part B, para 105?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Under notification No 34/83-Central Excises dated 1st March, 1983 as amended by notification No. 257/85-Central Excises, exemption was granted to certain items of prepared and preserved food items packed in metal containers, equivalent to the excise duty on that part of the value which represents the cost of metal containers. This notification expired on 30th June, 1986. Thereafter duty on prepared food items is leviable on their full value i.e. including the value of the containers.

(c) and (d) The extent of Modvat benefi will vary from product to product, depending on factors like whether the tins are made by duty paying units and the nature of other excisable inputs used etc. In many cases rtlief under the MODVAT scheme will be more than the relief enjoyed under the earlier exemption. There is no proposal at present to reduce the rate of Central Excise duty on metal containers or prepared food products.

Excise duty on aerated water

2764. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the Budget Speech Part 'B' of Prime Minister and Finance Minister in para 105 where it is stated that the excise duty on aerated waters has been increased so that the revenue netrality is maintained to off set the Modvat rebate and state:

(a) on what items the Modvat rebate is given to aerated waters and how much is the value of each item; and

(b) what is the increase in excise duty and what is the increase in net excise and whether there is any oversight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) With the extension of Modvat, aerated waters will get Modvat credit for duty paid on glass bottles, pilfer-proof-caps, sugar, essence, carbon dioxide, etc. Extent of relief for each of these items will vary from product to product. As explained in item No. 5 on page 20 of the Memorandum explaining the provisions in the Finance Bill, 1987, revenue gain of Rs. 17 crores would accrue from the duty increase of 20 paise per bottle for soft drinks and 15 paise per bottle for soda.